



TfW Rail Ltd Board Minutes

3 January 2025

09:00 – 14:00

Venue: Llys Cadwyn and online

Attendees

James Price (Chair), Jan Chaudhry van der Velde, Heather Clash, Alexia Course, Marie Daly and Peter Strachan.

In attendance

Julian Edwards (Associate NED), Sam Hadley and Jeremy Morgan.

1a. Apologies for Absence

None.

1b. Notice of Quorum

A quorum being present, the Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and declared it open.

1c. Declarations of Interest

Members confirmed that their published declarations of interests were up to date and there were no additional interests to declare specifically relating to agenda items. Heather Clash, Alexia Course and James Price are directors of TfW Fibre Ltd.

2. Safety Moment

The Board reflected on the three Autumn rugby internationals in Cardiff in November 2024 and the lessons learnt from complex events with substantial risks. Lessons learnt are being applied in planning for future events. The Board discussed the need for further involvement of other TOC managing directors in planning **[Action James Price and Marie Daly]**. The Board were informed of on-going work around pre and post event ticket checks which will be shared with the Board at an appropriate time **[Action Marie Daly and Alexia Course]**.

The Board discussed the use of pay-as-you-go on rail replacement services.

3. Customer moment

The Board were updated recent gateline coverage improvements. The Board welcomed the achievement of 80% coverage across nine locations with associated benefits and the longer term strategy around self-help.

4. Minutes and Actions

Minutes of the meeting 6 December 2024 were approved. The Actions Log was noted.

5. Chief Operations Officer Report

Board received and noted an overview of the COO's report for period 09. The review focussed on:

- The fourth consecutive period whereby services were significantly impacted by weather events, particularly on Wales and Borders. [REDACTED]
- The Board discussed issues around government 'do not travel' messaging during Storm Darragh for which no advance warning was given to TfW. It was agreed to raise with both the Welsh and UK governments **[Action James Price]**.
- The named storms in rail period 09 caused cancellations due to fallen trees and debris. The Board discussed the need to ensure that where the responsibility for devegetation and clearance sits with Network Rail, TfW is confident that plans are in place **[Action Jan Chaudhry Van der Velde]**.
- Despite the adverse weather and cancellations, PTL targets were achieved on both CVL and WCB. The MKIV service was affected by storms. A strategic review of the MKIV will soon commence.
- Class 756 introduction was hampered by several technical issues around power changeovers. The cause and potential solutions to the issue are being explored. A fourth unit is planned to be in service in rail period 10.
- The December 2024 timetable change was successful with the Board expressing its thanks to the team. Issues around evening congestion at Canton depot are being reviewed.

[REDACTED]

- The Board noted that Friday 29 November saw the highest ever revenue figure achieved on the TfW network at [REDACTED] and Saturday 30 November saw the highest ever demand figure on the network [REDACTED].
- The Board were updated on progress with the Canton wheel lathe and completion of the pre-prep kitchen at Newport Station.

6. Health, Safety, Environment and Resilience Report

Board noted the report. Work is underway to review and reissue targets.

7. Risk register

Board noted the report.

8. Marches update

Piers Croft joined the meeting.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Stephanie Raymond joined the meeting

[REDACTED]

The Board were introduced to the key assumptions underpinning the medium-term financial plan for 2025/26-2029/30. The Board discussed key assumptions and agreed changes around rolling stock, timetable and mileage, fleet maintenance and performance, and staff costs.

The Board discussed the impact of Storm Daragh on passenger revenue and noted positive updates on pay-as-you-go rollout, take-up and associated revenue [REDACTED]

The Board were encouraged to see the introduction of T2 rail & bus integrated ticket fares.

11. Business plan

Michael Pearce joined the meeting.

The Board noted progress with development of the 2025/26 Business Plan. The Board requested that the draft is shared with Andrew Bold [**Action Michael Pearce**].

Michael Pearce left the meeting.

12. CAF

[REDACTED]

There being no other business, the Chair thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting.